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THE COMPUTER PAPER

British Columbia's Computer Information Source

February 1985 PREMIERE ISSUE

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Welcome to The Computer Paper, our premiere effort.

We hope to fill the void in the Vancouver computing scene with an informative monthly publication focusing on the needs of the business computer community.

Our first issue's circulation is 30,000 and is being distributed FREE at the Vancouver area through computer award businesses, computer seminars, the library system, computer training centres, book stores, news stands and other computer-related outlets. The Computer Paper will also be distributed in locations with large computer installations.

We will be steadily including national, U.S. and Japanese coverage of current industry news from Wendy Wood's NEWSBYTES, the acclaimed computer-related news service. In addition we intend to cover local industry events, problems and companies. Look forward to our past related stories and features which affect and concern you on a local level.

If you see a heading computer writer looking for someone to get published, or a consultant with a wealth of knowledge to share, THE COMPUTER PAPER needs high quality features and articles. An emphasis on the local market and Vancouver's C/P Canadian market is what we want. Send an outline of your proposed article to contact Karen Singh at 733-5596.

We plan to carry a complete CALENDAR OF EVENTS. To ensure that your listing is correct, call and let us know where it. Note that these listings are FREE but we reserve the right to edit them for content and length.

We look forward to serving the Vancouver and B.C. computer industry and public with THE COMPUTER PAPER and welcome any and all of your support in doing this.

Karen Singh Khosla
Editor/Publisher

THE COMPUTER PAPER
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Contents

Departments

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Wendy Wood's Newsbytes | |
| Canada | 4 |
| U.S. | 4 |
| Japan | 7 |
| The Market | 4 |
| Computer Calendar | 14 |
| Classified Ad | 15 |

Features

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| SIMPLY ACCOUNTING | |
| Installed on the Macintosh | 8 |
| Canadian Payroll Packages | 10 |
| MacWorld Report | 12 |

Cover by Rosemary Adams



Early dot matrix press.

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Computer Paper for our Premier Issue. We hope you are enjoying it. We would like to start things off right by getting some feedback from you. As an incentive, we will put you on our mailing list if you take the time to fill in the questions below.

The questions are to give us an idea of what's happening to our test effort, and to give us direction as to where you would like to see it go. It also gives us something to tell our advertisers when they ask "who's reading it?" So we encourage you take a few moments and fill in the answers.

1) Which articles did you read? And how do you rate them 1-10. (1 is good, 1 is bad)
Name of Article Rating

2) How many other people read your copy of the Computer Paper?

- ☐ Nobody
☐ One person
☐ 2-5 people
☐ 6 or more

3) Do you plan to keep the paper once you have read it?

- ☐ yes - to refer back to the articles
☐ no - don't intend to keep it
☐ other _____

4) What is your position in the company?

- ☐ President/Director/CIO
☐ Vice President
☐ Senior Manager
☐ Middle Manager
☐ Entrepreneur
☐ Consultant
☐ Salaries Employee
☐ Other _____

5) Are you:

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

6) Do you influence your company's decisions on purchasing, leasing or renting any of the following? Check all those that apply

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☐ computer hardware
☐ computer software
☐ office equipment (typewriters, copiers)
☐ office furniture
☐ computer stationery
☐ telecommunications equipment
☐ on line computing services
☐ other _____
☐ none of the above

7) What category best describes the industry you work in?

- ☐ retail trade
☐ wholesale trade
☐ manufacturing
☐ construction
☐ resource based
☐ transport/communications
☐ banking and finance
☐ insurance
☐ accounting
☐ business services
☐ professional health, legal, education
☐ professional engineering/architectural
☐ public service/government

8) How many employees work for your company in the Vancouver area?

- ☐ 1-5
☐ 6-10
☐ 11-25
☐ 26-50
☐ 51-100
☐ 101-250
☐ 251-500
☐ 501-1000
☐ 1000+

9) What best describes your office?

- ☐ Branch office
☐ Local office
☐ Head office
☐ Other _____

10) What is your company size by total annual sales/revenue?

- ☐ Under \$100,000
☐ \$100-\$250,000
☐ \$250-\$500,000
☐ \$500-\$1,000,000
☐ \$1-\$5 million
☐ \$5 million +
☐ Other _____

11) How old are you?

- ☐ Under 25
☐ 25-34
☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54
☐ 55-64
☐ over 65

12) What is your highest level of education?

- ☐ High School
☐ Some/Completed post-secondary
☐ University degree

13) In what area do you live?

Postal Code _____

14) What is your household income?

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changes following on Friday, Oct. 16, at closing on Black Monday, and again at closing on January 15. Not one of these stocks — which range from small Canadian equity funds such as S&P Compensator and Annapolis Corp. to Bell Canada, Sun Microsystems, Kroyer Canada and IBM — has rebounded back to its pre-crash price. On average, the 35 stocks dropped 13 1/2 percent on October 19, and they've since 22 1/2 percent below pre-crash prices.

Communications-related companies have fared almost as pre-crash prices (Bell Canada Enterprises closed Jan. 15 at C\$36.10, having closed Oct. 16 at 196), at C\$36.70, while computer companies have continued dropping. One exception is Datacube Electronics, the Montreal-based telecommunications equipment maker, which dropped only 30 cents on the day of the crash and which since fallen five dollars more to C\$1.70. The other is IBM, which closed Oct. 19 at C\$115 and at now sits at C\$118.

The Toronto Stock Exchange's High Technology Index (which contains companies from electronics other than computers and communications too) has held steady at about 726.

EPSON TO APPEAL PRICE MAINTENANCE FINE

TORONTO (NS) — Epson Canada Ltd. says a C\$200,000 fine imposed against the company for alleged price maintenance is unwarranted and it will appeal. Epson pleaded guilty to the charges, which arose from a clause in dealer contracts requiring dealers not to advertise Epson products at less than suggested list price, but said it had not known the clause was illegal. The judge earlier said agreed with that clause, and found that no damage to dealers or consumers resulted from Epson's actions. Although not questioning the conviction, Epson wants the fine reduced.

Epson Canada said that although the clause was intended to give dealers contracts "to protect dealer margins so that dealers would be able to offer proper service and support to their customers." The company also said it was concerned about the revenue of a "grey market" in Epson products in Canada, in which Epson equipment is sold by non-authorized dealers at bargain prices. Because it may not be aware that such products are not covered by Epson Canada's one-year warranty, the company said. Epson Canada is Canadian-owned, with 81 per cent of the company controlled by its president, Maurice LaFrance.

CONTACT: EPSON CANADA LTD., 781 Yorkland Blvd., Willowdale, Ont. M2J 1S1, (416) 491-9555

WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE GRIEVES CLARIS

VANCOUVER (NS) — The creation of Apple Computer's software "apocalypse," Claris Corp., may provide a good thing in the long run, Canadians who develop software for Apple machines believe.

"It would be very regretful if the notion that Claris isn't aggressively addressing development issues" said Derek Ribick, a developer of Chemistry Software Ltd. in Vancouver. Apple Canada has previously been supportive of third-party developers. Ribick said, and there is no reason to expect a change. He said Claris could be seen to smaller developers, helping them market their products.

Tom O'Halloran, vice-president of engineering at Bedford Software Inc., also in Vancouver, agreed that Claris could help smaller developers through marketing opportunities. He added that expanding the software base for Apple hardware should benefit everyone. "I think it's Apple's intention to cover the world with Macintoshes, and I think that their software's redundancy has been set up to further that end."

Melanie MacTavish, general manager of Microsoft Canada Inc. in Toronto, said her company is "very pleased" with the move, which she believes will help Microsoft sales by allowing buyers more choice of software. Susan Feltus of Logo Computer Systems Inc. in Montreal said the move "could have a positive effect."

The recently formed operating class class Apple — getting Apple out of their computers with third-party developers — seems with some skepticism, however. "It's not a strength in every day," commented Ribick. "It's not a disadvantage to us Apple actually went off."

O'Halloran says Claris will benefit from having Apple's resources behind it.

However, said MacTavish, "I don't think there's any intention on the behalf of Apple to provide Claris with any other advantages."

CANADA REMOTE SCRAPS ONTARIO COMPUTER EXCHANGE

TORONTO (NS) — David Horvath Systems Inc. is dropping the Ontario Computer Exchange after three months of "trying to figure out how to integrate the OCE into our operations," the hardware and software dealer and bulletin board operator said in its latest membership newsletter.

The exchange, which was affiliated with the Horvath Computer Exchange, "requires considerable effort in tracking down used equipment," president Joel Horvath wrote. "It also appears to need a much heavier staff than we're prepared to give." Canada Remote has never been listed for the hard-to-find pickup type of operations, and we're not about to start now."

CONTACT: CANADA REMOTE SYSTEMS, Suite 311, 4798 Dundas St. W., Toronto, Ont. M3J 1Y6, (416) 291-2340

COPYRIGHT LAW MIGHT MAKE MANY USERS TECHNICALLY PIRATES

OTTAWA (NS) — Canada's proposed new copyright protection for software might put a lot of personal computer users on the wrong side of the law.

There's no law, due to go before the House of Commons in the next few weeks for final reading and final debate, specifies that the license of a software package may not make immediate delivery of the software, for instance business, without the vendor's permission. That means if you make two backups, or if you copy the software to your hard disk and then back up the entire contents of the hard disk, you are technically breaking the law.

Originally the proposals would have allowed "reasonable number" of backup copies. Michael Hogg, a spokesman for the federal Department of Communications, which helped draft the proposals, said the wording was changed because some software companies wanted a limit on the backup copies permitted. And Christine Huxton, president of the Information Technology Association of Canada in Toronto, said that while the organizations don't ask for the one-copy limit, it generally agreed with the legislation. Careful computer users shouldn't panic, however. Toronto lawyer David Lerner, of the firm Gordon, Traub and Rosenberg, said nobody is likely to prosecute a user for making legitimate backup copies.

BEDFORD SOFTWARE LTD., of Vancouver, has released Version 3.21 of its Integrated Accounting software. The new version includes 1985 tax tables for all Canadian provinces, updated "Worrier" Compensation Board wage lists, and the ability to print T4 forms for Canadian income tax in the current format. Suggested retail price is C\$349.

MICROSOFT CANADA INC., Toronto, has appointed Jonathan M. Sachs as the position of national sales and marketing manager. Sachs was formerly marketing director of The Creative Marketing Network Inc., Microsoft Canada's specialty solutions agency.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT has proposed a new federal information communications tax of 30 per cent on all long distance phone calls, whether residential or business. On the other hand, Telegrid, Canada's long distance carrier for computer phone calls from Canada, has an average of 13.3 per cent. The one result is that saving a 5000 on another contract will result more than most of us can afford.

NEWSBYTES-JAPAN by Matsuyuki Miyamoto and Kazuo Yamamoto

FUJI XEROX TIES UP WITH SUN MICRO SYSTEMS

TOKYO (2/2) — Fuji Xerox and California based major workstation maker Sun Microsystems have signed a broad business agreement, which includes joint development of computer control processing units and operating systems. To that end, Fuji Xerox will adopt Sun's processor called Sparc16 Processor Architecture Computer (SPARC) in its workstations. With SPARC, Fuji Xerox expects to make the performance of its machine more than its mainframe. Meanwhile, Fuji Xerox and Sun will jointly develop a new operating system with powerful network features. The new operating system will be based on the SUN OS Sun's version of Unix operating system. Both firms will add SUN OS with Fuji Xerox's communication protocol, and Xerox Network systems (XNS). **CONTACT:** Fuji Xerox, International Service Bldg., 5-3-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 100.

CHINA GETS DOWN TO PC EXPORTS — China is getting ready to export personal computers to the world market in a big way. According to an unpublished report, the Chinese Computer Development Corp. (CCDC), reported about 5,100 units of an IBM PC/XT compatible PC, the Desk-Wall 286, during September and November of 1987. The number is small but the company has gained major customers in the U.S., Singapore, Hong Kong, and Australia. CCDC will export more PCs this year.

MINOLTA ENTERS PC MARKET

TOKYO (2/2) — Osaka based Japanese camera maker Minolta will release two types of IBM PC-compatible personal computers in Europe and the U.S. in February. The PCW-3 and the PCW-3 have an 8088 CPU, and more business programs are bundled with the machines. They are a Japanese word processing program, an English translating program, a calendar, and a calculator. The PCW-3 has two 5-inch floppy disks, while the PCW-3 has a 5-inch floppy and a 3.5-inch floppy hard disk. They are priced around \$3,500. **CONTACT:** Minolta Camera, Osaka Kohatsu Bldg., 1-30 Yasuichi-cho, Suita-shi, Osaka 564.

SUNSHI BYTES

PHARMEX TECHNOLOGIES IN TOKYO — Pharmex Technologies, Inc., USA, will set up a shop design center in Tokyo. The company will design IBM compatible computers and provide a consulting service. It is also expected that the company will set up the design centers in Korea and Taiwan.

CRAY JAPAN AND TOSHIBA — The American subsidiary of supercomputer firm Cray Corp. and Toshiba have recently agreed to a cooperation sales of Cray computers in Japan. In the agreement, Toshiba will handle Cray's supercomputers with various Japanese computers and peripheral equipment to meet the demands of Japanese customers.



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Simply Accounting: Macintosh Accounting From Bedford

Program Requirements and Size

Simply Accounting Program 409.5K; HelpFile 7K.
File Size: requires at least 800K of on-line storage.
The program needs 1 megabyte of memory and the same 128K RAM chip (a Mac Plus or better). Up to 1000 GL accounts can be created using a 4-digit design. 500 million dollars is the maximum account balance value it can handle. Suggested Retail Price is \$449. Updates are offered which include program enhancements and tax tables for the payroll module. The program is not copy protected.

What's it for?

Bedford's new accounting program, Simply Accounting is a fast entry into the increasingly crowded accounting market for Macintosh. It is a low-end single-user accounting system for small business. The target market for this product is small business accounting. Simply Accounting will be competing with the likes of its lineage Accounting (GL, AR, AP, & SOB), back to Trainers (GL, AR, AP, SOB), and Accounting Inc. (GL, AR, AP, Inv, SOB). While it is a powerful program, it lacks some useful features such as password protection, and a graphing capability.

Simply Accounting features fully integrated GL, AP, AR, Inventory, Payroll and Job Costing modules, all on one disk. All balances are constantly updated as entries are made. Reports can be sent to the printer or to the screen, which facilitates error checking. The job costing module gives the ability to track one project, department or profit centers.

See left page for more.



The startup screen

Ease of Use

The program puts the basic interface to good use. Data entry is straightforward. Error handling is reasonably good with the error messages provided. For example, the date entry controls give warning if the date of entry is changed by more than one week. If the date access past a significant accounting date it also sends warning messages to the screen.

Macintosh users who desire a fast and easy option to have a program, something which allows a "point-and-click" for the appropriate entry. These windowing tools also supports the arrow keys on the newer Mac keyboards.

The ability to split journal entries between up to 255 ledger accounts is available. This feature is designed for those month-end users who take out \$2,000 in payroll each month and need to disburse it over a hundred or so expense items.

Two major complaints against the program were fixed with respect to date entry. A keyboard equivalent of Fanning was implemented. This is a new feature that allows the user to enter a date by typing the month, day, and year (e.g., 1/2/88) and click) that the reality is that switching between means flows down entry considerably. Another improvement would be the ability to cancel a report request with a "Command-Period" as is available in a number of Mac databases. This is especially useful with reports requested to error that take a while to compile.

Performance

Bedford has taken the same approach on that version in their PC program where much of the data is loaded into RAM. This makes the program run very fast. However, the basic idea it can run on has a memory of memory, it has more capacity than the PC which is limited to 640K RAM. Consequently, the capacity of accounts is about double that of the PC version.

The program allows the user to save whenever they wish, in addition, it will save whenever memory is posted and when the program is closed. This provides reasonably good protection against loss of data entry. Ready or Not, The Bed Up.

Set up is fairly straightforward except that the "Ready - Not Ready" method of compiling the program is unique here in that it allows historical data to be entered and balanced before the program begins its run. The "Ready - Not Ready" feature prevents data corruption, and Ready to go, it is not possible to alter GL Account balances, though it is still possible to add more GL accounts and account existing ones. It is a good idea to read through this section a couple of times before launching into your conversion.

For those companies are provided go disk. They cover a good range of GL account options so that with a few modifications, most small business can be set up without having to enter everything from scratch. Using the existing templates has the added benefit of having the templates accounts already documented. Thus, fortunately, it is not a complete task if it becomes necessary.

The program uses four digit numbers for the chart of accounts. There are seven ranges which must be used for Assets, Liabilities, Equity, Revenue and Expense accounts. There cannot be changed. Each set of accounts is limited to 1000 accounts. So although the program can potentially handle 5000 accounts only 10000 digits may be key into your accounts such as Expenses. This should not be a limitation for most small businesses, but it may be a consideration for annual cases.

Recruitment and Payroll

The program employs the open service method for both recruitment and payroll. There is no option for both recruitment and payroll. However, the customer or vendor invoices that are fully paid may be either paid or returned. The documentation claims that the program can handle 2,000 customers or vendors with transactions limited only by available memory. The aging period can be defined by the user. This is a worthwhile addition, avoiding the limitation of the standard 30-60-90

bedford

Simply Accounting

days. The program can be used in conjunction with a manual inventory or check system, or by printing out custom computer forms.

Inventory

The inventory module uses the average weighted cost method and can report on a margin or a mark-up basis. It updates from the Recruitment and Payroll modules, a nice feature for small retailers. According to the documentation, it can handle up to 16,000 inventory items.

Job Cost

Any revenue or expense transaction can be allocated to profit centers, divisions or projects. Up to 2,000



but this is a double-edged sword. It's a nice feature with the potential to create havoc, because printing a check doesn't reflect the journal entry. It is conceivable as print one item or more of the same checks.

Another missing feature is the ability to print out statements and amounts on plain paper, the user must buy additional forms, which are readily available, but a world's best feature is to able to design and print custom amounts and statements.

Reporters linked to their flexibility. In designing reports it is a nice feature to be able to choose from, but the program doesn't give access to different font sizes. The screen font and the printed font may also be different. One check addition is the ability to suppress new balance amounts from reports.

There is no budgeting feature in Simply Accounting. The program will not make last year figures visible. The current month and year in fact do not appear on the same report. Fortunately, this fairly easy to print reports from different periods. The program does have exporting capabilities for any of its reports which can be easily sent to spreadsheet and then later. This is a nice feature to upgrade up the program somewhat limited reporting functions.

An audit trail is also available from the General Journal Report. The documentation.

Simply Accounting comes with a very professional looking three ring binder Users Guide and accompanying manual complete with actual divider tabs. The major documentation of the manual is that the manual assumes it is being used by someone off into other areas before giving a comprehensive list for the program. The rest of the manual differs from a simplistic approach at some times. It assumes that every one is a Mac novice, and doesn't mention keyboard shortcuts or double clicking when they would be appropriate. At one point in the User's Guide they go so far as to suggest referring to the Finder to open a new file instead of using the "Open" and "Open" menu options under the File menu.

The manual includes a limited though useful accounting manual. The intention is not to teach accounting, but rather bring the user up to the level of understanding necessary to use the program correctly. Some may still require the services of an accountant in setting up their books.

The documentation also suffers from a short section. For example, the seemingly relevant item of "Printing" is not relevant. Another helpful feature would have been to print the chapter headlines on the site which devote the sections rather than just using numbers. The number "3" doesn't allow just such, but "Output" might.

The "Tip" section of the manual could be improved

and not more effectively, sometimes the main body of text runs into the top, and doesn't seem to make sense, a different font would have helped, or perhaps a dividing box, (see pg 5-13 of the User's Guide.)

© The Mac User Group



Making journal entries is fast and easy

The help files included on disk are very limited, accounting for only 10, but they can be somewhat helpful on occasion. To call them extensive though would be a definite overstatement.

Support:

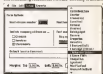
Bedford offers adequate support, (customers pay the long distance charges if from out of town) by subscription for \$60 per hour. Payroll rates and program updates are available for \$29 a year. Bedford will replace defective disks for free.

We Moved First...

The lack of password protection seems major. Even on a two-drive would be useful in a small business to protect sensitive information regarding payroll, etc. Why they left it out is a mystery since password protection is available for the PC version, although it was apparently complex to use. Bedford seems to have thought that not including it was not including it. Not having automatic printing for recurring entries such as rent or loan payments is another big oversight by Bedford. A graphing capability, while not just a standard feature in accounting programs on the Mac, is certainly a standard feature in Simply Accounting. Finally, a plain paper option for statements and amounts would be a great addition, for those who don't want to spend more on custom forms.

Values

Bedford has come up with a sleek and pointed font and accounting solution for the Mac. Its simplicity is one and



pop up menu's allow for fast control

fast to set up. Given Bedford's reputation for quality at a good price in PC accounting software and the growth of Macintosh sales, it seems likely that this product will be well supported and improved. With the addition of a Canadian payroll option, Simply Accounting should be a high priority choice for a number of Canadian small businesses with enough forward-looking goals. (An American version is also due out shortly.) Although the pricing seems a week high, given the "plain vanilla" features offered, we rate the program value at good.

allow programs can be made at any point later. The reports produced are for revenue and expense by period, and they may be detailed or summary. The program will not produce separate balance sheets by time periods, only a schedule of revenues and expenses.

Payroll

See the Payroll survey in accompanying article for detail on Simply Accounting's Payroll.

Reports and Printing

A shortcoming of the program is that checks should be made for printing checks. Each item must be processed and printed individually. This approach does allow for both manual and computer generated checks.

Survey of Canadian Payroll Software

If it's worthwhile to put your company's payroll on your office PC? The banks and some accountants may tell you no. We attempt here to give a survey of your best options available running on both MS-DOS machines and Macintoshes. In setting up our comparison table, we found a many cases we felt competing reports in images and to avoid an extremely detailed and unreliable table, we opted for a more simplified survey table (see [1]) where the program supports the format, two (2/2) if there is well and three (3/3) if it exists in some way.

Product Descriptions

Each of these programs of course has its own strengths and weaknesses. ACCPAY is designed for the user who requires the flexibility and capability provided by an enterprisable financial for company and non-company deductions. It is designed to maintain a record of business as well as a number of employees possibly requiring, which is a departmental reporting. It is also well suited to non-profit organizations with a large number of employees. MacPAYROLL is the PC and Mac software for the small owner managed business with a small number of employees who require a distribution of the payroll costs in jobs.

Both MacPAYROLL and ACCPAY are the middle of the spectrum. They have more flexibility in defining earnings and deductions than Redford has but lack the simplicity of user defined formulas as in ACCPAY. Paytime is a different program and MacPayroll is written in a Mac database program called Claris 3. Consequently both programs pay a price in speed of access, reliability and update.

Another middle of the road is Accounting Master for. This is a stand alone product with many powerful features. Accounting Master is positioned in a position to handle larger payroll volume than the capabilities of ACCPAY. It is written directly to the ACCPAY report buffer.

All the programs allow for the printing of duplicate check images in the event of errors in printing. This brings up an important accounting difference between the programs. Only ACCPAY provides an audit trail which would identify that multiple checks have been run.

REDFORD: MAC AND PC

Redford's software does about the same thing as both the Mac and the PC, as the price differential between the programs seems a little high. Whatever happened to economies of scale? The package is well priced for both businesses. The manuals are well done, if a little thin in the technical sections.

Redford on both machines is weak in reporting features. It does not give a monthly printed summary report and a report which calculated the variance to the Government. The information is passed to the General Ledger and available but not on-line as in a specifically named report as in the other programs.

All the programs will print T-4s for employees. Redford however, does not produce an employers summary of T-4s. Another drawback is that the earnings and deductions as they are necessary can be prepared from anyone information. These shortcomings in Redford's payroll program suggest that a more good choice as a stand alone payroll program. If, however, Redford was acquired for the General Ledger or other functions, and the choice is between a stand alone payroll and using Redford, Redford's is better than nothing. The information at all times, as you're always behind in such and sometimes takes a bit of work to get it out.

One of the major differences with operation of the systems is that Redford requires the user to pass the cheque and not immediately after entry of each payroll record. This creates a situation of having to enter and print, enter and print. If the number of employees is

small, this will not be much problem, in larger companies, this approach would be very time consuming. All the other programs take a batch mode approach to the payroll process. The data entry point would enter a large number of items about in one session. The entire session can run for hours but it is not batch.

MACPAYROLL

MacPayroll does a good job of processing a healthy supply of reports. The documentation is decent, although a good manual, beyond the on-line sample would probably lower the learning curve. The ability is that they have a live data support line and more guides than you can enter the company products or the hard program in the phone. The program is a little slow in getting across and reports are, a function of being written in the database language Claris 3. Once you get it all in there though it can print out payroll in fairly short order. Advances can be done either individually, or with a global command for a group of employees. Year-to-date totals on individual employees cannot be showed except by printing a summary report, which is very useful. The software has some strict error checks including the ability to detect bogus Social Insurance Numbers. This is possible because the ninth SIN number is a check sum.

MacPayroll's worst characteristic doesn't have anything to do with an accounting domain. It's slow. Using Apple II. This is a characteristic that would not appear as much in a PC version, but it stands out again after other programs which allow much more flexibility with time and screen representations.

If you can get past the lack of it, it is better, especially at the new pricing just announced by Altec. As of February 1, the program will cost for \$49. The company also intends to release a fully functioning business version which will do 50 employees.

PAYTIME

An important accounting concern with Paytime is that the year-to-date information for any employee can be shown and no audit trail report is generated by the system. Otherwise the program operates as noted. It is reasonably flexible in its earnings and deductions. The documentation is well supported by explaining the rules and introducing a manual. A search through the index more columns than a block that a source of further information. More on screen help would also facilitate matters. Data entry is clumsy in Paytime. It is often necessary to press RETURN to move the cursor through a screen in which no data was to be entered.

ACCOUNTING MASTER

Accounting Master bears some resemblance to another payroll program called Inland Master which debuted last year. Accounting Master has many improved features, including a literature from using company forms. It will now let you use plain paper on your cheque master. As mentioned previously, the program will write directly to ACCPAY general ledger files. It does do for Client Strategies as well, another popular accounting program.

A full audit report contains with a large degree of flexibility in both deductions and earnings reports made by a stand alone program. The program allows for all seven types of earnings for both earnings and deductions.

1) a manual entry, where the amount is typed in at each action,

2) an entry entry, where a fixed amount is entered as advance and occurs at each payroll,

3) a formula entry, where the amount of the deduction is a percentage of some earnings source.

In addition, a manual override is available for any earnings or formula entry.

Your accountant may still grumble, but they are more likely to grumble approvingly at the way Ac-

counting Master deals with altering account balances. Although it is possible to alter you to clear earnings numbers, the feature is only accessible to the highest level of personnel control. It will allow you to print multiple versions of a cheque, but this is a trade off, if more than flexibility versus lower account controls.

ACCPAY

ACCPAY is very complex. Setting up the system for the first time is not for the faint of heart. Advanced planning, the manual and strong nerves are the key to a successful approach to setting up the ACCPAY payroll. Once set up, the program is not difficult to use and things go up smoothly. Even entry data can be speedily apply the use of recurring entry sheets. Adding new employees in the system goes very fast. If job classifications are set up for employees with specific earnings and deduction types.

Information can be generated for job-costing, employees and departments. It may sound like a lot as the earnings and deductions but every earnings category can prove to be a limitation to some suit and deduction. More importantly, only twelve are mandatory deductions are available. ACCPAY does not include the employer portion of the payroll costs in an job costing or worker reporting, an important oversight.

THE BANK

What about the Bank you say? The cost may sound a dollar per person per payroll, as you figure it out if it is worth a fair price company. On the plus side is that someone else takes care of updates, changes in government regulations and even getting the money into your employees accounts. This also doesn't lead to worry about explaining payroll inquiries to various employees - only your banker looks for sure. On the negative side the bank charges cannot explain what the program does, you have to go to the bank to get the data. In advance of the if you, where it is to be done, they get to act on your government contribution for a while much better meeting it - they paid the interest, as you. What a means used payroll! This kind of interest alone could be enough to eliminate the use of any of the payroll programs mentioned here. Banks can't always calculate the earnings and deductions in your specific and there are limits to the cost saving information that can be obtained.

And the European Please...

All of the programs represent good value for the money. Whether there is more to be had by the bank or a manual system depends on your quality. With the range and uniformity good quality products available, you compare can provide good space for payroll processing.

For a complex payroll, ACCPAY stands out the most. It does not allow all the required features it may be possible to obtain a modification. Paytime would be suitable for a small to medium sized business without too many complex earnings and deductions. Accounting Master offers a professional and easier to set up alternative to ACCPAY with the added bonus of database. MacPayroll is a good solution for the Macintosh Office. It is a good way reasonably and provides a good variety of reports. Redford is most suitable for use for a very small payroll or if you bought it to handle the rest of your books and want to maximize your investment.

The hard work for this article was done by JOHN HOBBS, Certified General Accountant of Hobbs Consultants Ltd. John can be reached at 4707 Glenheim St. Vancouver WA 3A5 Telephone: 266-9886 - KSK

Canadian Payroll Programs

| Product Name | Simply Accounting | Mac Payroll | Payline | Accounting Master | ACCMAC Payroll | Bedford Integrated Accounting |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Company Name | Bedford Software | Alec Design Inc | Zorcom Software | Accounting Master | Computer Associates | Bedford Software |
| Version | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 4.2 | 3.25 |
| Operating System | MAC | MAC | MS DOS | MS DOS | MS DOS | MS DOS |
| System Requirements | Mac Plus | Mac 512K | 384 | 128K | 256K | |
| Cost | | | | | | |
| Program | \$49 | \$50-149 | \$49-99 | \$49 | \$1200 | \$199 |
| Updates | \$89/year | \$130/year | \$340 | \$49/update | \$295 | \$59 |
| User Support | \$60/hour | free | \$125/year | free | 3rd Party | \$60/hour |
| Supplier Support | | | | | | |
| Installation & Training | 3rd Party | | | | 3rd Party | 3rd Party |
| Documentation | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Tutorials | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Hot line | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| On-Line Help | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Customization available | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Capacity | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Flexibility | | | | | | |
| Earning Types | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Range of Pay Periods/Possible Deductions | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Automatic Calculations | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| User Definable | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Options | | | | | | |
| Advances | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Job costing | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Multi-Provincial Employees | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Quebec Deductions | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| User maintainable tables | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Integrates to Accounting Prgm | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Batch Processing | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Multi-user Version | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Password Protection | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Summary Reports | | | | | | |
| T-4 | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Month end summary | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Report for Receiver General | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| 1-4 Summary | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Audit Trail | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Performance | | | | | | |
| Ease of Set Up | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Ease of Use | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Speed of Posting | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Speed of Check Processing | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Entry Error Checks | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |
| Aesthetics | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// | /// |

MACWORLD SPECIAL REPORT

MACWORLD CROWDS, NEW PRODUCT INTERLUDES UNFOLD

SAN FRANCISCO (M) — There's no doubt that the Macintosh has become a mainstream machine. If the stream of traffic through and around the MacWorld Expo is any indication, "Variety all the things at all night MacWorld" of the Information Center were held to capacity when the doors opened at 11 a.m. and showgoers exemplified of being such in traffic for hours before they finally found a place to park. The show broke all attendance records for a San Francisco computer trade show, drawing 25,000 people the first day compared with 20,000 the day before. The 300,000 Macintosh wouldn't be so much delighted, however, since prepared for the initial day's crowds. Over the past weekend to the show in record numbers, so much that most companies ran out of press packets well before noon.

A variety of new exciting new products were introduced, and our other reports have the highlights.

ORCUD INTRODUCES COLOR FOR THE MAC SE

SAN FRANCISCO (M) — The highlight of the show for most people was Orcud Technology's new color video interface card for the Mac SE, installed in an open slot of the Macintosh SE. The color image, up to 16 million colors in a palette of 4,096, is displayed from the Apple Color SEB interface or as an RGB or compatible VGA monitor which is hooked up to the Macintosh SE. The resolution is 640x480 pixels.

When used with a color monitor, ColorView SE, has a 75% larger display area than the SE's screen built in black and white screen. A company spokesperson told NEWSBYTES that a number of the best selling products and other programs have all been prepared to work in color using ColorView SE and other manufacturers are adding the capability.

Due to be shipped in February, ColorView SE, for \$895 CONTACT: ORCUD TECHNOLOGY, P.O. Box 413, 94085-0380

FORMS GENERATION A HOT NEW MACINTOSH APPLICATION

SAN FRANCISCO (M) — Several firms showed all software to enable the Macintosh to generate professional-looking standard or custom forms, a hot area product area, according to Dataquest. The industry tracking firm predicts that the electronic forms management market will expand by 300% between 1985 and 1989, from \$700 million to \$1.7 billion.

Chen of Mountain View, California, displayed SmartForm Designer and SmartForm Manager, two programs which can be used to create generic forms, invoices, purchase orders, or low applications, for example. It is a multi-page document design program that creates graphic tools for instant creation of each component in fields, text, check boxes, and tables. It also contains data definition features that allow for electronic capture and the subsequent manipulation of data in the forms. Available at the present price of \$160, SmartForm Designer will cost \$75 and SmartForm Manager \$149.

"Software, Canada, California, showed as prototype forms generator called MacForm. Titled "graphically edit report," the program lets the user to change and maintain existing graphics documents when any change in field size or graphics document takes place. The program has a basic text processor, spelling checker, spreadsheet interface, and all standard graphics tools, among other features. This software is planned for the new future Release 1, which has the above features. Release 1, which will support networking capabilities, and Release 1.1, which will have complete tools for printing, drawing, and clearing.

NEWSBYTES was unable to obtain pricing on the package.

"Steve Enterprise of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, showed Fast Forms version 1.1, an object-oriented drawing program for forms creation that includes a variety of design elements including grid systems, line-form, variable type size, ascending, descending independent horizontal and vertical grids, and printing and on-screen drawing pages. The program also performs calculations on data entry fields. The list price is \$149 and Fast Forms contains a full language data field with various ready to use.

"Spaceman Digital Systems, Madison, Wisconsin, took a different approach to forms processing. A pre-printed form can be designed in a session, and any program called TimeForm, and filled out via the Macintosh. The software can "form" placement of items in a frequency and form, performing calculations, and can print documents. The color sample tools such as color in each color to fill in as an option. The form can be printed out on either a LaserWriter or LaserWriter printer. Available now, the program costs \$495. Send company President Mark Smith to NEWSBYTES, "Why answer the wheel?" He said his product is the only one available which allows the Macintosh to utilize data field and pre-generated forms.

HYPERWARE HYPER-IDENT

SAN FRANCISCO (M) — From an introduction to new applications, Apple's HyperCard dominated this year's MacWorld Expo. Here's a partial list of the new products and their prices:

* Symantec Corporation, Menlo Park, California, exhibited HyperCard, a disk accessory which allows HyperCard to go beyond HyperCard stacks which using other applications. The disk accessory does not allow the contents of a stack to be changed. Available now, the price is \$69.

* Activision, Mountain View, Ca., unveiled Report!, a free-form, graphics-oriented report design program with drawing tools to place lines, boxes, text, and graphics anywhere on a page. Report! also supports complex relations with individual reports, including dates, units, sub-titles, averages, and counts. The price is not as \$100 when the product is in beta version in March.

* Activision also showed City to City, software which is a customizable travel guide for 36 U.S. cities and contains information on business services, etc. Available in March, the program is set to cost \$50.

* Caption Technology, Cambridge, Ma., has been announced the first wireless intelligence stack for HyperCard. Called Macintosh 3.0, the product is both self-contained (stand-alone) and can be used to create report systems. An end user could have a "stack agent" stack that would guide him or her to a solution in a problem, be it how to prepare a Christmas dinner, fix a flat tire, or solve the world's problems. The actual price is not to be \$155.

BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE IBM WORLD: IBM ON A MAC

SAN FRANCISCO (M) — While IBM and Apple are now tied at work improving communication between their machines, others have already produced new products to link IBM and Macintosh PCs. Apple's introduction of AppleLink PC (see NEWSBYTES 1/28/87) was revealed by an offering from Tanager Technology of Norcross, Georgia, which showed Tanager, Inc. software which enables a network of Macs and IBMs to share network. The product does everything that AppleLink PC does, but also will allow IBM-OS/2 3.1 applications and IBM computers and software as well. Tanager is pricing its peripheral control software ready to be sold as Apple.

APPLE/IBM FORM STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

SAN FRANCISCO (M) — On the opening day of MacWorld Expo, Apple and Digital Equipment Corporation laid to rest rumors of an expanding alliance by announcing they were not. Apple and DEC, a joint development effort to integrate Macintosh and the AppleTalk network with VAX and DECnet/OSI networks. Expected from the alliance is assistance in all application programming efforts for developers to write distributed applications and change documents. DEC has the second largest installed base of machines, more than IBM, and to connect with Apple, whose Macintosh sales are exploding, means the biggest boost to IBM's dominance of the computer market is in fact Apple. Apple gave new projects to the corporate market when the Macintosh actually joining companies. And DEC, which immediately installed into the small system market with a machine called the Rasterwork server, says, can finally offer a system to computer in its customer.

Analysis suggest the partnership will result in a counterbalancing agreement between the firms and DEC may offer to buy or lease millions of Macintoshes this year.

THREE NEW LASER PRINTERS FROM APPLE

SAN FRANCISCO (M) — Apple has released its LaserWriter line with three models, ranging from an entry-level model at \$1,599.99 to a high performance, expandable model at \$3,599.99. Apple has also introduced a third of the printers can be upgraded to color the next highest, or highest performance printer. The Canon LBP-55X second-generation printing engine, used to produce darker blacks, higher resolution, and longer life span, drives all three models. The first and LaserWriter II, also used as its second, also has an individual Macintosh, but a high-speed RAM, uses the Motorola 68030 chip, and without the QuickDraw extension, which addresses the Macintosh screen, to print a page. It is not a Postscript printer. However, comes with a standard laser font: Courier, Helvetica, Symbol, and Times, in point sizes of 9 through 24.

The sample documents provided by Apple is remarkable in its definition and clarity and to the third one, is actually looking at the text from the output of the previous LaserWriter models.

The LaserWriter IXT (the "XT" refers to networking) is a Postscript printer, priced at \$4,400, has 1 megabyte of ROM and 2 megabyte of RAM, comes with 25 standard typewriters, and contains a postscript as a network. The high-end LaserWriter IIXT is the first laser printer to run on the Macintosh IIXT, the latest of the Macintosh II, and is a second of the high-volume printer. It has all that the IXT has plus three expansion slots for the addition of ROM, RAM (up to 12 megabyte) and SCSI hard drives. It also includes built-in 387 LaserJet resolution.

Apple promises to continue to support current versions of LaserWriter and LaserWriter Plus printers.

All three models are expected to be in retail stores by February.

APPLE ALSO UNVEILS WIDE INTERFACE, SHIPS AFTERMARKET PC

SAN FRANCISCO, Ca. (M) — Macintosh can now share files with PCs on an AppleLink network with AppleLink PC, which Apple is easily shipping. The price of AppleLink PC is set at \$119. Apple released on its day of product introductions by unveiling the Apple IIXT hardware for the Apple IIOS and Macintosh. The price is set at \$99 and the product is available now.

By Wendy Woods

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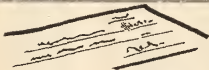
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| | |
|------------------------------|---|
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| Sat, Feb 6 & Sun, Feb 7 | Learning About Microcomputers UBC Continuing Education \$185 A lab workshop 10-4 pm Micro Lab: Old Bookstore, UBC 222-3276 |
| Mon, Feb 8 - Mon, Mar 14 | Programming in C UBC Continuing Studies \$195 An Introduction 7-10 pm Micro Lab: Old Bookstore, UBC 222-3276 |
| Tue, Feb 9 & Thu, Feb 11 | Getting Started with Macintosh UBC Continuing Education \$145 An Intro to the Technology 7-10 pm Rm 121 Comp Science Bldg UBC 222-3276 |
| Wed, Feb 10 - Wed, May 2 | Office II Plus UBC Continuing Studies \$195 Getting started 7-9-30 pm Micro Lab: Old Bookstore, UBC 222-3276 |
| Thu, Feb 11 - Thu, May 3 | Using MS Word UBC Continuing Education \$180 An Intro 7-9-30 pm Micro Lab: Old Bookstore, UBC 222-3276 |
| Fri, Feb 12 - Sat, Feb 20 | Desktop Publishing UBC Continuing Studies \$95 DTP and the graphics arts studio 10 am - 1 pm Rm C55 Woodward Bldg, UBC 222-3276 |
| Sat, Feb 13 | MS-DOS UBC Continuing Education \$65 A beginner's guide 10-2 pm Micro Lab: Old Bookstore, UBC 222-3276 |
| Sat, Feb 13 | Information Access UBC Continuing Studies \$60 The new online databases 10-1 pm Levi Hall 4 Woodward Bldg, UBC 222-3276 |
| Sun, Feb 16 - Sun, Mar 1 | Word Processing on the Mac UBC Continuing Studies \$165 Using MS Word 7-10 pm Rm 121 Comp Science Bldg UBC 222-3276 |
| Thu, Feb 15 - Thu, Mar 13 | Writing Manuals Successfully UBC Continuing Studies \$180 for the Computer Industry 7-9-30-30 pm Room 201 - Westrock Bldg, UBC 222-3276 |
| Tues, Feb 16 | NewView Accounting Seminars TDL Management Systems Free Hotel Georgia, 9-12 am \$75-7117 |
| Sat, Feb 23 | MS-Excel UBC Continuing Studies \$65 An advanced workshop 10-2 pm Micro Lab: Old Bookstore, UBC 222-3276 |
| Thu, Feb 25 - Thu, Mar 17 | Inside the PC UBC Continuing Studies \$55 A technical perspective 7-9 pm Rm 455 Comp Science Bldg, UBC 222-3276 |
| Fri, Feb 26 | Using Rowset UBC Continuing Studies \$175 Using Framework to organize your thinking 9-4 pm Micro Lab: Old Bookstore, UBC 222-3276 |
| Sat, Feb 27 | MS-DOS UBC Continuing Studies \$65 A beginner's guide 10-2 pm Micro Lab: Old Bookstore, UBC 222-3276 |
| March 1 | Desktop Publishing Between a Graphix Supplies free call for schedule Saturdays 11-30-1 pm 1015 Richards St 681-3281 x |
| Tues, March 16 | NewView Accounting Seminars TDL Management Systems Free Hotel Georgia, 9-12 am \$75-7117 |
| Sat, Mar 20 | Desktop Publishing Tools Simon Fraser \$160 Alternative Approaches SFU Downtown 687-4355 |
| Fri, Apr 8 | Desktop Publishing Simon Fraser \$160 A day with Ventura Publisher SFU Downtown 687-4355 |
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